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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00 L-03 STR-06
INT-05 EPA-04 CEQ-01 OES-07 NSF-02 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SS-15 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02
NSC-05 /096 W
----------012982 262107Z /65
R 252015Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2135
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS WINNIPEG 0046

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, CA
SUBJECT: ROSEAU RIVER -- MANITOBA ENVIRONMENT MINISTER EXPLAINS
WHY PROVINCE RENEGED

REF: A. WINNIPEG 42, B. WINNIPEG 30

1. FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PREMIER LYON (REF A)
I MET WITH MANITOBA'S NEW MINISTER FOR MINES, RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENT, BRIAN RANSOM, TO GET MORE INFO ON REPORT (REF B)
THAT MANITOBA HAD REJECTED USG COMPENSATION PROPOSAL FOR ROSEAU
RIVER PROJECT -- WHICH HAD CONCURRENCE OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT
COMMISSION (IJC).

2. WHILE RANSOM WAS RELUCTANT TO GIVE US A COPY OF HIS LETTER TO
EXTAFF MINISTER JAMIESON, PREFERRING TO KEEP "THINGS IN THE
PROPER CHANNELS", HE DID FURNISH PRESS RELEASE WHICH MAKES
FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- MANITOBA IS ' SUSPENDING ANY ACTION" IN CONNECTION WITH ROSEAU
PROPOSAL, RATHER THAN HAVING "REJECTED" IT, AS REPORTED IN PRESS.

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-- REASON IS THAT PROVINCE IS "---NOT CONVINCED THAT ANY PROTECTIVE
OR MITIGATING WORKS IN MANITOBA WILL BE EFFECTIVE OR SUFFICIENT."

-- QUOTING FROM PROVINCE'S LETTER TO OTTAWA "IN VIEW OF THIS
UNCERTAINTY, THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA IS IN EFFECT BEING ASKED
TO ACCEPT AN OPEN ENDED RISK ON BEHALF OF THE FUTURE GENERATIONS
OF ITS CITIZENS--- " IT IS SERIOUSLY QUESTIONING WHETHER IT

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SHOULD ACCEPT THIS RISK IN RESPECT OF A PROJECT WHICH HAS LITTLE
IF ANY BENEFITS FOR THOSE SAME CITIZENS IN THE ROSEAU BASIN."

-- RANSOM SAID MANITOBA IS INTERESTED IN CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS ON
ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM IN MINNESOTA, SUCH AS
IMPOUNDING WATER WITH CONTROLLED RELEASE, WITH GUARANTEES OF
QUANTITY AND QUALITY FOR CANADA."

3. RANSOM EXPLAINED THAT ON TAKING OFFICE IN OCTOBER, NEW CONSERVA-
TIVE GOVERNMENT DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY CHANGES TO WHAT THE PREVIOUS
NDP GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO ON ROSEAU, BUT INCREASED AWARENESS ON
THE PART OF MANITOBANS, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE AFFECTED AREA
(WHICH BY THE WAY, IS A STAUNCH TORY RIDING) HAD CAUSED THE PROVINCE
TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE PROPOSAL. THE MINISTER ALSO NOTED THAT
THE PROJECT IS ALSO BEING QUESTIONED IN MINNESOTA, AND IMPLIED THAT
THIS GAVE PROVINCE GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO RE-OPEN THE ISSUE.

4. COPY OF PRESS RELEASE BEING POUCHED TO EUR/CAN AND
EMBASSY/NEE, ALONG WITH BIO OF RANSOM WHO, DESPITE ROSEAU OBJECTIONS,
SEEMS PARTICULARLY SUITED FOR HIS JOB VIA STRONG BACKGROUND IN
RESOURCE PLANNING AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY.
HUTSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, POLICIES, RIVERS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WINNIP00046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780039-0608
Format: TEL
From: WINNIPEG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780122/aaaaaseo.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 7c4c09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 WINNIPEG 42, 78 WINNIPEG 30
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3713327
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROSEAU RIVER -- MANITOBA ENVIRONMENT MINISTER EXPLAINS WHY PROVINCE RENEGED
TAGS: SENV, CA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c4c09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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